



State Board of Education Resolution
Recommendations Related to Allegations of Sexual Assault and Abuse in Schools
SR22-6

WHEREAS, the D.C. State Board of Education has recently been made aware of a number of sexual assault allegations at schools in different wards that have not received the appropriate or necessary follow-up—and understands the importance of student safety and well-being, as well as the potential long-term impact on children if these concerns are not adequately addressed;

WHEREAS, the trends in Washington, D.C. are observed in the U.S. Department of Education’s (USED) most recent biennial Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) found reports of sexual violence at schools rose from about 9,600 in the 2015–16 school year to nearly 15,000 in the 2017–18 school year—an increase of more than 50 percent; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no data on sexual assault and abuse related to D.C. schools that is easily available and transparent to increase awareness on the issue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the D.C. State Board of Education calls on the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and other District agencies to make data on sexual assault and abuse in schools publicly available and complete strategic plans that aid in the prevention of instances of misconduct across the city;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that incidents of sexual assault and abuse at schools are reported annually by OSSE and disaggregated by type (e.g., student-to-student, staff-to-student, sexual harassment, etc.);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive provide clarity in what agencies are responsible for housing data regarding sexual assault and abuse in schools, processes for how agencies share data regarding this topic, as well as what agencies are responsible for addressing specific aspects related to the topic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that data related to bullying against gender and sexuality be made readily and publicly available in ways that protect the victims anonymity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that relevant District government agencies make publicly available protocols for investigating and reporting school-based incidents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that front-line supports in communities (including the offices of members of the Council of the District of Columbia, Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs), community organizations, and individuals who may interface with children and families) should be aware of and follow protocols for reporting concerns, including contacting





the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) by calling (202) 671-SAFE (7233) and the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, then notifying the school principal or designated staff about the concern;

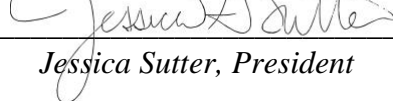
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that innovations that support anonymous reporting including technological solutions, cellular and web-based apps, and other mechanisms that provide protections for students to report should be put in place;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that agencies provide clarity on available wraparound services for students who may be victims of sexual assault or abuse in school settings and should be proactively providing those services including relocation of schools, mental health supports, and other general wellness provisions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that schools and other relevant agencies expand their trainings on mandated reporting and sexual assault in schools to expand staff's knowledge of and ability to support preventing instances of gender- and sexuality-based harassment and create supportive environments regardless of gender or sexual orientation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the D.C. State Board of Education, its agency partners, and the Council of the District of Columbia convene a roundtable to gain clarity on available data and a deeper understanding of what sexual assault policies are already in place at and in District government agencies, how cases are typically handled, the procedures for reporting, and what resources and supports are available to students and staff; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the D.C. State Board of Education generates a final report from our findings related to the topic and any concrete next steps on the topic.

Date Adopted: 7/20/2022 Signed: 
Jessica Sutter, President

